3. Issue of the Letter of Intent for Pilot Project to M/s US West (India) Limited in the field of telecommunications from the CS Cell of the Department of Telecommunications.

However, a MoU for CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) demonstration of 150 lines equipment for 90 days was signed on 22.6.94 between the Department of Telecommunications, an agency of the Government of India, through its Telecommunications Engineering Centre, with offices located at DOT, Khurshid Lal Bhavan, Janpath, New Delhi-110001. India ("DOT") and QUALCOMM INCORPORATED, a Delaware, USA Corporation, ("QUALCOMM") with offices located at 6455 Lusk Boulevard, San Diego, California-92121 much before the visit of High Power Delegation mentioned in the question.

Award of work to MNC for induction of latest technology

2363. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to award parts of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to a US-based MNC for induction of latest technology by the then Government on pilot project basis, withoput a licence fee during 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of signing of MoU between Government and Head of the US delegation, an agreement reached between the Chairman, Telecom and representative of the delegation;

(d) the reasons for which MoU was not signed; and

(e) Government's reaction/decision thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) M/s US West (India) Limited, a joint venture company of US West International and BPL Limited submitted a proposal to implement the pilot projects in 4 Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) of Tamil Nadu and 2 SSAs of Karnataka. After examining the said proposal, Government issued Letter of Intent on

16-01-1995 to this company for pilot project in four SSAs of Tamil Nadu only on terms and conditions to be finalised through discussions. Simultaneously bids for provision of Basic Telephone Service were also invited in January 1995. As a result of this tendering process, the joint venture company M/s US West—BPL India Limited turned out to be an unsuccessful bidder and letter of intent for providing Basic Telephone Service in Tamil Nadu was issued to the successful bidder M/s Basic Teleservices Limited. In the changed scenario, implementation of said pilot project lost its relevance.

Non-availability of Kisan Vikas Patra

2364. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kisan Vikas Patra in the denomination of Rs. 500/- and above are not available in various Post Offices in the country;

(b) whether there was any demand and reminder for such Kisan Vikas Patras from Gujarat circle; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India Security Press, Nasik, functioning under the control of Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, is responsible for printing and supplying Kisan Vikas Patras to various Circle Stamp Depots of Department of Posts, through the Central Stamp Depot, Nasik. The Department of Posts has brought the shortage of Kisan Vikas Patras, particularly in the States/Postal Circles of West Bengal and Gujarat, to the notice of India Security Press, Nasik as well as Ministry of Finance time and again. Ministry of Finance has informed Department of Posts that the India Security Press, Nasik is in the process of augmenting their production capacity and the situation will improve soon.